

**APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR MATERIAL
CAPTURE AND REMOVAL**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Catheters, kits, and methods are provided for removing material from a
5 body lumen. The catheters and methods may be used in a variety of body lumens,
including but not limited to coronary and other arteries. In general, the catheter has a
cutting element that cuts material while the material is engaged by a material capture
device on the catheter body. Preferably, the material capture device tensions the material
during cutting, which reduces the amount of cutting force required. The material capture
10 device typically follows a path that draws material into the catheter body. Preferably, but
not necessarily, the material capture device may be arranged on the catheter body to
advance along a path outwardly from the catheter body into the material and then
inwardly towards the catheter body to tension the material. The cutting element on the
catheter body moves between a first position and a second position to cut the material
15 while in tension.

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